- MISSOURL

THE FAT MAN SAVED THEM. Story of a Party of Pioneers Who All But Perished on the Plains.

Perished on the Plains.

Col. Alexander Majors, a western neer of fifty years' experience, probably knows more about the west and its development than any other living man. Having spent all his life in the west he has seen it grow from a wilder-ness into the highly-developed and thickly-populated country it is to-day. In 1822 Col. Majors, then a lad of ten

years, was living with his father in Jackson county, Mo., on a farm which is now the site of Kansas City. Then this country was the frontier, and there were only a few farmhouses where now stands the great city. Twelve miles away was Independence, the farthest

"In the spring of '23," said Col. Majors, "a farmer living near us named James Cockrell, an uncle of Senator Cockrell, started out to cross the plains for the Rocky mountains, where he hoped to catch enough beaver in the mountain streams to bring in a little cash, which was extremely scarce in those days. Cockrell was not heard of for two years. At the end of that time he returned with enough beaver skins to bring him \$1,400. Cockrell also brought back a weighty silver-mine secret. He had discovered what he supposed to be a wonderful silver mine. He organized a party to return, seek out the treasure and bring back loads of untold wealth.

"My father, Benjamin Majors, was among the twenty farmers who joined the expedition and set out for the Rockies. After a long, weary journey the mountains were reached and a few days' search discovered the mine.

"All the pack-horses were loaded with the precious ore and the miners started on the return journey. The first two or three hundred miles of the return trip lay through country swarming with Indians and buffalo. Every night several of the party were left on guard to see that the Indians did not get away with our horses.

"One night when they had just arrived at the western border of Kansas, four hundred miles from home, the Indians sneaked upon them. A lot of them crawled along on the ground and so steathily did they steal between the pickets that before anyone was awakened they were in the middle of the camp. Such whooping and yelling was never heard, but before the campers were wide awake the Indians were off. having stampeded every horse, both pack and saddle.

"The travelers were left in a terrible state. They were four hundred miles from home, winter was fast coming on, their clothes and shoes were almost in shreds from mountain usage, there was nothing to eat and nothing to cook with. All they possessed was their guns, ammunition and blankets, under which they were sleeping. They had no provisions whatever, and it was four hundred miles to coffee, sugar and bread. It was a terrible distance, but they bravely set out. There was one man in the party named Clark Davis, who weighed two hundred and seventyfive pounds. His flesh was an awful burden to carry. It seemed as though they would have to leave him on the plains to perish. His clothes rubbed the skin from his flesh, and his feet became so swollen he could scarcely walk. He could not keep up in the march, and someone would have to remain behind and bring him as fast as he could travel. And the two would trudge into camp long after the others had stopped for the night.

"At first they managed to live very well. There was plenty of buffalo and the pioneers shot enough to furnish plenty of meat. They roasted the meat in the fire, but had to eat it without the luxury of salt or other seasoning. But finally even the buffalq became scarce and finally disappeared altogether. Meanwhile the fat man had improved vastly. He had become inured to the hardship of all day tramping and he could keep up with the procession. Scarcer grew the game and a new fear grew daily on the unfortunate men-the fear of starvation increased every day. Then it was that the fat man's adipose tissue came to his rescue. It was a reservoir of reserve force, supporting him while the others were starving. And the fat which the rest had once believed would cause his death proved the salvation of the whole

"They were now fearfully reduced and emaciated. They lived on roots and any little prairie animals they could catch. At last they reached timber again, but were able to go no farther. Davis took up his gun and said he would never come back until he had caught something. In a few moments two shots brought glad tidings. Davis had killed two deer and so ravenous were the poor men that they devoured parts of the animals raw. From this food supply they obtained enough strength to finish their journey.

"Many a day for years I heard them recount the perils and hardships of this never-to-be-forgotten journey." - Chicago News.

Pictures in Stones.

Shakespeare could "find tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, sermons in stones and good in everything;" but he fails to mention the possibility of finding a picture drawn by nature in a stone. In several of the ancient as well as modern scientific journals we read of lines and markings in certain atone formations, particularly agates, which bear striking resemblances to the outlines of men, animals, landscapes, etc. One of those curiosities now preserved in the museum of the vatican is is a perfect likeness of a crowned king. Many of the representations are so lifelike that they have been mistaken | concern; everyone knows that he got | that you could lay your finger on, was for medallion portraits! We read ac- up this movement just to foist his always and forever in debt. It used to counts of several of these wonders in promising son into office. Couldn't run be a perfect mystery to me how he con- of Martial (first century) a man is men-Albertus. One plainly shows a man in on any regular ticket, you see. Work- trived to spend so much money; it tioned as either stopping or extracting the attitude of running; another is a ingman's friends, indeed! Why, the seemed to melt away like ice as teeth. The date of the introduction of perfect figure of the good St. Jerome, party leaders are nothing in the world soon as it got into his hands, and artificial teeth into England or Europe from the numberless little islets to St. but the most remarkable of all is an agate containing a representation of without a thimbleful of brains among so that finally he cut off Noll's from England, but just when it is diffi-Apollo surrounded by the Nine Muses. them; and as to all their fine talk about allowance altogether, and swore he The Bresford-Hope collection in the South Kensington Museum, London, contains scores of these curious picture stones.-St. Louis Republic.

Fatal Use of Language.

He-Deah me, don't you know, Miss Sweetbriar, that when the electric caw



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CHAPTER IV.-CONTINUED

Even in the midst of his annoyance North found time to make a mental note of the new fact that Wymer's words had elicited. "So I am the opposing candidate for

city attorney," he said to himself, accepting with a half-satirical surprise the honor that was thus thrust upon him. "Actually dabbling in local politics; I never supposed that I could deseend to that!" Mr. Wymer's brief enthusiasm pass-

ing off, he relapsed again into a state of harmless and peaceful imbecility; and North thought that his moment of escape had come. But in this he was cruelly disappoint-

ed. No sooner had he turned away than Wymer started up again, exclaiming with all the enthusiasm of a new inspiration:

"I shay, North, hold on; jush lemme speak t' you!" Speak to me, then, and have done

with it!" cried North, desperately. "North-you're drunk!" asserted Mr. Wymer, with startling emphasis, as he steadied himself against the lamp-post and blinked sternly at North. "You're drunk, sir, drunk. D'ye hear? You'll never do for city 'torney; oh, no! Take 'm home, boys," he added, waving his hand unsteadily toward several gentlemen who had congregated on the corner. "He feels sick, now, North does. Told 'im er truth. Don't like to have er truth told 'im. Take him home, I shay. His own mother wouldn't know him now; he's drunk!"

Upon this appeal one of the gentlemen stepped forward quickly and took North's arm, with the words:

"I think you'd better let me take you home, North. Mr. Wymer will feel better satisfied if you do. Come on, old fellow," he added, drawing North aside and speaking confidentially, "it's the shortest way to get rid of Wymer. He's just in a condition to be troublesome. If you can escape from him in this way, you'd better do it."

North assented and started slowly down the street with his arm linked in that of his friendly companion; but he was not destined yet to escape. Wymer gazed after them for a moment in a slightly bewildered way, then suddenly started to follow them at a creditable pace; creditable only in point of speed, for he described all sorts of variations from the straight line of direction in his hurried course, while his voice was still heard above every other sound in

"'Sawful shad!" he exclaimed, very ment efforts to extract a silk handkerchief from his pocket, with the obvious intention of assuaging imaginary tears of grief. "Young man er North's talen's throwin' shelf away like thish! Tur'ble warnin', young men. Drink did it. D'ye hear? Steady there, now, steady! Hooray! Here we go!"

Mr. Wymer's mood became slightly hilarious at this point, and, catching his hat in his hand, he swung it gleefully around his head while he continued to cheer uproariously.

This was beyond endurance. Haiting sharply, North had just turned to signal a policeman half a square distant, who, with that disinclination to active duty that seemed to pervade the whole local force, had been witnessing this scene without any thought, apparently, beyond his own idle amusethe opposite side of the street, caugh:

They took forcible possession of Mr. Wymer, notwithstanding his manful re- strangely familiar look. sistence, and by their united powers of command and persuasion succeeded in leading him away. North and his new friend watched

"Mr. Wymer's friend's were evidently disconcerted on finding that he was making such a spectacle of himself," remarked North, as he recalled the glances of chagrin that the young men

had exchanged. "Why, yes; they see that he is ruining his chances for election. Every



SWUNG IT GLEEFULLY ABOUND HIS HEAD.

a dissipated fellow, but this is the first time for weeks that he has been seen on the streets 'elevated' in the daytime. They have kept a close watch over him during the canvass; must have relaxed their vigilance a little to-day. Oh, they're a hard lot, that whole 'Labor Party,' as they call themselves-a hard lot!" added North's companion, shaking princely in his generosity in this rehis head dubiously. "Of course, old Wymer's money is the backbone of the being the poor man's friends and would disinherit the young spendthrift, looking out for the interests of and actually did forbid him the house; labor versus capital, it's just so much and poor Noll, too proud and angry to trash and twaddle! I can't see that the bid even me good-by, drifted off to

all; can you?" turned North, with the wise non-com- are obliged to resort to that invisible mittal air eminently becoming his ig- means of support. And now he has ty-two tons, or something like six tons She—Poor fellow, and you have never norance on the subject. "These things drifted back to the United States and heavier than the rudder used on the second from it.—Detroit Free Press. often turn out in a very unexpected is living here in X—, fully established Great Eastern.

way, you know. In fact, it may be said in his profession and actually running inently of politics, 'that it is al- for a municipal office. It really wasn't ways the unexpected that happens. We never can tell, until the decisive day comes, with what skill our opponents

have been massing their forces.' "As to that," returned the other, with a laugh, "Wymer's party haven't any forces to mass. Oh, of course they make some show; but with the better elements of the other parties consolidated in this independent ticket, and drawn up in a sort of invincible phalanx against them, they ought to know that this municipal fight will prove their Waterloo. Still, old Wymer's money has done a good many queer things, if all reports are true; and it may possibly get Jack into office."

A sudden turn right here brought them in sight of the Clement house, greatly to North's satisfaction. Parting from his friendly companion at the steps of the hotel, North went up to his room, whence, a few moments later, he was summoned to the dining-room by the harsh music of the gong.

CHAPTER V. Pol-Hath there been such a time (I'd fain

That I have positively said: "'Tis so," When it proved otherwise?

Hume Seal up your lips and give no word but This business asketh stient secresy! -King Henry VL immediately after dinner North re-

turned to his room with the intention of writing to his New York colleagues, notifying them of his arrival in Xand giving them the benefit of his opinon as to the probability of his discovering Dennis O'Reilly himself, to say nothing of his supposed clews. Seated at the writing table, deliberat-

ing gravely before commencing the letter, he drew his cigar case from his pocket, thinking that he might find inspiration in a fragrant Havana, and with it came the envelope that he had received from Mrs. Maynard's hand. The sight of it struck disagreeably upon him. By this time his better judgment. having secured a tardy hearing, was

severely condemning the reckless spirit

that had led him to call on Mrs. May-



THE BOOK DROPPED FROM HIS HANDS. nard, and he had the good grace to be heartily ashamed of himself for that exploit. How he should make amends for it was a question difficult enough under any circumstances, but complicated to the extreme of awkwardness by his possession of that letter—a letter which Mrs. Maynard had evidently designed for the perusal of a trusted and confidential friend, not of a total stranger.

With a growing sense of his own embarrassing position, North laid the envelope as far as possible from him on the desk; and, as he did so, his glance fell idly upon one of the books that were ranged beneath the pigeon holes. In his first ment, when two young men, passing on | hurried examination of the room he had glanced through several of the books sight of Wymer, divined the state of without finding anything that would affairs, and came hurrying up to inter- identify the owner; but he had overlooked this volume, which, as his eye now rested upon it, seemed to wear a

He drew it from its place and looked at the title; it was a copy of Don Quixote, in the original. With growing excitement he turned to the fly leaf. There, the interesting trio until they turned a above a date that carried him back in corner and disappeared, then they con- memory several years to his college tinned their own walk down the street. days at Harvard, he saw written by his own hand the words, "Ollin, from Allan," while underneath, in the doggerel in which undergraduates delight, were scrawled a few stanzas, the authorship of which a remorseless memory immediately fastened upon him.

The book dropped from his hands in his agitation at this discovery. In tones of incredulous amazement he exclaimed: "At last the mystery is solved! By Jove! So my first suspicion was correct, after all, Ollin, not Allan; the similarity in sound deceived me; it was Ollin North that he said"-his thoughts suddenly reverting to the gentleman with the eye-glasses. "Actually Noll, my own twin-brother! No wonder they can't tell us apart! Well, I am astonished! I should as soon have expected to run against the man in the moon, or any other person of doubtful existence, as to find Noll here. Why didn't he let me know where he was? I hope he doesn't lay any of Uncle Dick's sins at my door! What'if the old gentleman was always holding me up as a model for Noll to imitate, ever since we were in knickerbockers, and calling me his favorite nephew and all that rubbish; why, bless his heart, Noll knew well enough how I felt toward him, and I don't believe there was ever the faintest shade of jealousy or even so much as a passing cloud between us up to the very day we parted so suddenly! Let me see, now, how long ago was that? We were just out of college, Noll and I, and were reading law with Judge Carroll, and that was six years ago. Six years! What a genius Noll had for spending money! Now I always had enough with my regular allowance, and managed to make the ends meet very creditably, though Uncle Dick wasn't exactly spect; whereas Noll, without one single vice, or even an actual extravagance movement is making any headway at | Europe to live by his wits. Dear old fel-"Well, it is difficult to judge," re- low! He had a better capital to depend on than most of the fellows have who

PITH AND POINT.

fair for him to throw me over in this

unceremonious way. By Jove! I'll tell him what I think of this unbroth-

erly conduct when I see him again.

And I can tell him something else that

will interest him quite as much, per-

haps - that there hasn't been &

day in the last six years when Uncle Dick wouldn't have given

quarrel with Noll and receive him back

into full favor again, if only Noll would

make the first advances. How I should

like to see the dear old fellow again!

turning the pages, pausing occasionally

to read some marked passage or mar-

As he did so a folded paper fluttered

floor. North picked up the paper and

unfolded it. It was a telegram ad-

dressed to Ollin North. Before he was

conscious of what he was Gaing Allan

"Will proves to be a forgery. Why is respon

sible for this? We look to yourself and Mrs.

Maynard for explanations. Search for Mrs.

through the first dazed wonder that it

created. By degrees a clear and definite

"Well!" he exclaimed aloud, "if this

isn't the most remarkable coincidence

I ever heard of! And it plunges me

deeper than ever into embarrassments.

Mrs. Maynard-surely that is the name:

why did it not occur to me at once?

Mrs. Maynard, represented in court by

Hopkins and Shepherd, of New York, is

the claimant in the Dunkirk will case, in which my partners, Hunter and

Ketchum, appear as executors and so-

licitors of the estate. I, who have pre-

viously had no connection with the case,

come here to X-- as the representa-

tive of Hunter and Ketchum, to investi-

gate a clew which they hope may lead

to the discovery of Annie Dupont, the

sole heir at law; and behold, I am mis-

taken by the claimant for her own

lawyer! Could such a combination of

circumstances occur more than once in

he had overlooked one point which a

brought out with startling prominence.

"'We look to yourself and Mrs.

Maynard" -he read the sentence aloud

Mrs. Maynard, the claimant, Ollin

North, her confidential legal adviser.

What had been his own previous suspi-

cion concerning these two? Only too well

did he remember it now; and he saw it

plainly reflected in that message of

Hopkins & Shepherd. In a swift rush

of thought Alian North reviewed all

the incidents of the case that had first

led to his suspicion; he took up one by

one the various links which, though

slight and insignificant in themselves,

"Can it be possible," he asked him-

self, still in a maze of bewildered

thought, of unwilling conviction, "that

Noll has so far forgotten his personal

and professional honor as to descend to

such a deed as this? There is only one

hypothesis upon which I can explain it

at all. He must have been mad-in-

fatuated! A beautiful face has lured

many a man to his ruin, and Noll has

doubtless been the victim of the artful

wiles that were practiced upon me to-

day. So be it! Fate has most strange-

ly put it within my power to visit a

just retribution upon her, and I will

exercise that power without mercy. I

will deliberately keep up the deception

in which I have thus far acquiesced for

my own idle amusement, and in the as-

sumed character of my brother ascer-

tain how far Mrs. Maynard has know-

ledge and complicity in this forgery.

the wratched conspiracy, let her be-

There was a pitiless anger in North's

heart as he spoke these words in

audible soliloguy, and a pitiless ex-

not for one moment question the cor-

rectness of his suspicions, the justice of

holy writ." The thought of the crime to

been lured, the exposure and disgrace

would thenceforth rest upon the fami-

would take advantage of the peculiar

circumstances in which an exceptional

the whole truth concerning the forgery.

and if possible divert public suspicion

and discovery from his brother, for the

sake of the innocent ones who would

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Ancient Dentistry.

The practice of dentistry is of great an

tiquity, for, as early as 500 B. C., gold

was used for stopping teeth and gold

wire was employed to hold artificial

teeth in position, and it does not seem

then to have been a new art. Herodotus

knowledge of the diseases of the teeth

and their treatment. In the writings

is uncertain. They came to America

cult to determine. "The Mathematical

Jewel," published 1585, contains an account of Sir John Blagrave, "who

caused all his teeth to be drawne out,

and after had a sett of ivory teeth in

agayne."

suffer if his crime became known.

be irresistibly forced upon him.

a hundred years?"

to pace rapidly to and fro.

idea shaped itself in his mind.

ginal note scrawled in pencil.

North had read these words:

his right hand to make up

-Van Braam-"What quiet eyes Miss Manchester has!" Shindiss-"Yes; so widely different from her chin!"-Pittsbugh Chronicle.

-"How is it that Jenkins' baby cured him of drinking?" "Because every time he went home tipsy he thought he saw twins."—Inter-Ocean.

-Huntin' pleasure in riches is a good deal like blowin' down the muzzle of a gun; a feller never finds out it's loaded 'til it's too late.—Ram's Horn. -He-"I've bought you a pet monkey to amuse you, darling." She—"O, how kind of you! Now I sha'n't miss you

This Cervantes brings him up so vividly, to think that he should still keep it when you're away."-Pick Me Up. about him! It must be for the sake of -Locally Effective.-Smythe-"Was old associations. That is so like Noll!" your Baltimore heater a success last winter?" Tompkins-"Oh, yes; I've While these thoughts were passing through his mind North had taken up no doubt it was warm in Baltimore."the book again, and he was now slowly Puck.

-"I ain't much at the pianny," said the coal:yard employe as he adjusted the weight of a load of coal, "but I'm great at runnin' the scales."-Washingfrom between the leaves and fell to the -- Proof of Marriage .- "I overheard

Charlie and Lil quarreling this morning." "By Jove! Then the story of their secret marriage must be true."-Detroit Tribune. -"Is Tomkins familiar with Shakes peare, I-" "Well I should say so.

He brought back my copy with one cover torn off and the other marked Dunkirk's niece will be prosecuted. Also an investigation of this forgery. Let us hear from you at once. HOPEINS & SHEPHERD." up."-Inter-Ocean. It would be impossible to give any -Nurse-"Oh, baby, you are naughty adequate description of North's state of You almost make me wish there were mind as he read this message, while its no babies." Minnie (aged six)-"Well, startling significance slowly penetrated then it would be lovely; there would be

nc nurses!"-Tit-Rits. -Mistress-"I should like to know what business that policeman has in my kitchen every night in the week? Cook-"Please, mum, I think he's sus-

picious of my neglectin' me work or somethin'."—Demorest's Magazine. -Miss Hart-"Which do you think is usually the sillier-the bride or the groom?" Mr. Oldbatch-"The groom, of course. That's how he happens to

be a groom.-Indianapolis Journal. -He (gazing at her jewelless ears during a temporary lull in the conversation)-"Why! did you never have your ears 'bored?" She--"Never, up to the present time."-Boston Transcript.

-Avesha.-Miss Twitter-"Mr. Enped has a habit of referring to his wife as 'She.' " Mrs. Dogood-"Only an abbreviation." Miss Twitter - "For what?" Mrs. Dogood-"She-who-mustbe-obeyed.'-Truth.

-But Flowers Are Expensive .- "Do Once more he took up the telegram | you know anything about the language and read it. In his first hasty perusal of flowers?" he asked. "I don't believe flowers have any language 'at all," resecond and more careful reading now plied his friend who was thinking of his best bouquet girl. "Why?" "Because they say talk is cheap."-Washington Star.

in a puzzled way-" for explanations." -A cow that gives black milk is the What does this mean? Can it be pos- eighth wonder of the world. The anisible that they suspect- Good mal belongs to Robert Hansborough, Why was I so blind as not to see it befrom the milk of this cow is of the color of coal-tar. Six calves have been Dashing the telegram down on the reared by Hansborough's cow, and they desk, he rose to his feet with his face thrive well on the black milk. grown suddenly white, and commenced

-Grocer-"What have you been dong in the cellar so long?" Grocer's Apprentice-"I have been cleaning out the molasses measure. It was so clogged up that it didn't hold more'n half a quart." Grocer - "Oh, that's what you've been doing! Well, you take your hat and go home and tell your father to send you to the theological school. You ain't fitted for the grocery business."

A TOUGH GOOSE STORY.

yet when skillfully united formed a But the Western Woman, Who Had Also Seen Queer Things, Believed It. complete chain of damaging evidence; She was a western woman and had and by the time this swift review was been entertaining a room full of guests finished he had surrendered most rein an uptown hotel with some extraor luctantly to the belief that seemed to dinary tales.

She had just finished one particularly wild and woolly border romance, when a young southerner present drawled: "Madam, if anyone else in the world had told that story I should have been compeled to doubt it, but, of course, I

can not refuse to believe you. "Now," he continued, as if by way of retaliation, "you can not fail to appreciate a most unusual occurrence in my state. The past winter, as you know, has been unusually severe in the south. Well, in November, when the wild geese were flying past us, a flock of them stopped to drink in one of our Carolina ponds.

"Being so much pleased with the water they loitered for a day or two. But one time while they were paddling around a sudden cold wave swooped down without any warning. A crust of ice formed over the pond in less than And if I find that she is responsible for a minute, and there were the geese stuck as fast as if they had been nailed to a board.

"For several days the geese-there must have been a thousand of themfluttered and squawked trying to expression on his stern, set face. He did | tricate themselves, but to no purpose. The people in the neighborhood watched their struggles with more or his conclusions; he felt an inward con- less curiosity, and finally a mountaineer viction of their truth which was to his and his wife ventured on the ice to cap-

mind "confirmation strong as proofs of ture some of the game. "The geese made one tremendous efwhich he believed that his brother had fort in unison, and lifted the whole sheet of ice into the air, slowly flying that threatened him, the stigma that away with it. Slowly the ice floe ascended until it became a mere speck ly name, was maddening to him. And in the sky and finally disappeared altothus his resolution was formed; he gether. The neighbors are now watching every day when the weather moderates to see the old man his wife drop

from the clouds." turn of fortune had placed him, to learn The western woman looked up at the speaker and remarked: "Well, that certainly does seem incredible, but I don't doubt it, for I've seen too many queer things myself."-N. Y. Herald.

The Scilly islands have in the last

ers, and flowers are now almost the sole business of the inhabitants. The crop of narcissi this year was enormous. As many as twenty-seven tons of these flowers were shipped to declared that the Egyptians had a the London market in one day.

few years'been made a paradise of flow-

The distance from the isles to London is three hundred and twenty-eight miles. The flowers are all shipped by steamer from one port in the island of St. Mary's. The flowers are brought Mary's in sailboats, and it is an inter esting sight to see, in the early morning, the dozens of these little crafts with their cargoes of dainty blossoms battling the rough waters that beat among the rugged islets, on their way to the steamer .- N. Y. Sun.

Defining His Stagus. THE Vulcan, the British Ironclad, is "You're a friend of the Spriggins provided with a rudder weighing twenfamily, are you not?" "No, sir. I'm a poor relation of the Spriggins family."—Chicago Tribuna TAX REFORM DEPARTMENT.

(This department aims to give everybody's ideas about taxation (not taxiff). Write your opinions briefly, and they will be published or discussed in their turn by the editor or by a member of the Taxation Society. Address, "Taxation Society," this office or P. O. Box 25, Buffalo, N. Y.)

To American Farmers.

The old proverb runs, "Experience is

dear teacher, but fools will learn of no other." Few farmers are fools. Most of them have wisdom sufficient to profit by the experience of others, and to know that there is not an active working farmer in all this broad land of ours who has not cause to lament the hardness of the times. When farms will scarcely bring the cost of their improvements, and lands on which nature's choicest gifts have been lavished leave but a bare living after paying taxes, when farmers in Kansas burn corn for lack of coal, and coal miners in Pennsylvania are half starved for lack of opportunity to work and buy this very surplus of corn, it is evident that the cause and the cure must speedily be found and applied if we would avert the consequences that in all ages have followed such conditions. What, then, can history tell us of the causes that produced like conditions in the

past? Injudicious and excessive taxation has made paupers of the Turks, once so vigorous that Europe's combined strength scarcely sufficed to turn back the tide of their invasion. It has panperized Spain, once the wealthiest and has impoverished Italy, whose sons once ruled the world. It has driven the canny Scot and the thrifty German by canny Scot and the thrifty German by thousands from their homes, and made rate of nearly 5% per cent so that the Irishmen, in spite of their love for old average debt of \$1,797 incumbers each Erin, aliens and wanderers over the whole earth. It breeds pauperism in \$3,990. every civilized community on the globe. It is to-day in spite of our national resources and our limitless domain. exhibiting the same tendencies here that it has produced at all times and in all places under the sun since civilization

began. There are other wrongs to be righted, other grievances to be redressed, but, as compared to our barbarous, unequal injudicious and injurious modes of is the greatest sufferer, for what little he has is in forms that can not escape the eye of the tax gatherer. Hence abandoned farms and the steady flow of the bone and sinew of our country homes to cities, where to a great extent it is possible for industrious men to escape taxes on industry, for thrifty men to accumulate without disgorging the greater part of their savings. - Tax Reform.

Fool Taxation in Switzerland.

graduated tax extortion, a contempo rary reminded us that the plan had been tried in Switzeland and worked admirably, giving general satisfaction. This we did not believe, as human nature is much the same all over the world, and thrifty citizens do not like to submit to confiscation through governmental tyranny, whether they live in Kentucky or Kamschatka. But not having reveled of late in the attractions of Alpine altitudes or the seductive study of Swiss statesmanship, we could not for the moment authoritatively deny that bold extortion was popular among the rich men of that republic. The Boston Weekly Review, however, has important information on the operation of graduated taxation in Switzerland. The facts are gathered from an official report from the British legation certain cantons that this system of progressive taxation exists, and it is the most thoroughly developed in Vaud.

In this canton, then, we must look for great and general prosperity if the graduated tax theorists are correct. But what do we find? We quote from the Review:

"The fiscal gain is more than counterbalanced by depreciation in land values and injury to local trade. Wealthy families have left the canton, while many regularly close their houses for nine months in the year in order to evade the law. Foreigners too, are less and less anxious to reside in the canton. The consequence of all this is that many properties have depreciated fifty per cent. and that trade suffers greatly. It is significant that the proposals of the radicals to introduce the Vaud system into Berne was rejected by the people on a referendum by an overwhelming majority." A fine object lesson for the pseudo-tax reformers to master.

The effect of the fool tax laws, such as Vaud enacted, would be substantially the same elsewhere. Taxing thrift in behalf of thriftlessness is as preposterous as it is dishonest. No community can afford to discourage enterprise—the pursuit of gain in the varied avenues of human activity. By doing this it simply invites the dry rot.

Let New York make no such blunder as has been committed by this unfortunate Swiss canton.

The Moral Issue in Taxation. . The Georgia tax return, after asking

fifty-one questions, winds up by inquiring "the value of all other property not herein mentioned?" Each man answers in a more or less Pickwickian sense. He doesn't aim to be honest but only as near so as his neighbors will average. The tax list is a court of moral bankruptcy in which the debtor pays from forty to seventy cents on the dollar, or is expected to. Confiding natures try to believe that nobody defaults worse than this or that few do. The whole subject is managed in a gingerly manner, you see, and the average man, when pressed, will admit that a paper institution is necessarily a farce. ought to have?-The Courier, St. Louis

Making Them Pay for Privileges. The Connecticut Puritans used to the tax every church member and devote the proceeds to supporting the minis-ter. This did not unduly encourage devotion.

Ir is absolutely certain also, that the burden of local taxation all over the land has grown for years past enor-mously heavier, and that beneficial results are ridiculously out of proportion. There's a warm time preparing for somebody.-N. Y. Commer

NEW JERSEY.

The state of the s

Annual Report State Board of To "In theory this system (the present seems just, simple and easy of applie tion, but the fact is it has entire broken down as useless, because, by a universal testimony of every state the union, it is an absolute impossibility to apply it to the complex social organization of the present time, with it many kinds and classes of property an almost endless variety of circumstances." almost endless variety of circumstances, enhancing or diminishing the values of property, with the opportunities our social system offers and presents of hiding from the auseanors much valuable property, which escapes taxation wholly

or in part The state board of taxation has given the system of taxation in use in various states of the American union much careful study and research, to-gether with the official reports and current literature on this subject of taxa-

Taxes and Tenants.

In Boston, so long accounted the "hub of the universe," over 81 per cent. of the families hire their homes. Those who do nominally own their homes have largely parted with their owner-ship as is shown by the fact that Boston homes are encumbered for over 48 per cent of their value. The situation in the country districts is no less alarming. On the farms in Massachusetts which are owned by those who occupy them there are liens amounting to \$11,831,941, which is over 41 per cent. of their value, and this debt bears inmost powerful nation of Europe. It terest at the average rate of over 5% home, which has the average value of

The chief cause of this crowding of more and more people every year from a position of independence into one where they can only live on condition of giving up a large part of their earn-ings with no adequate return, is due to the fact that the people are not edu-cated to see the injustice and folly involved in their own systems of taxation. They see property of immense value, like some palatial hotel, or they taxation all other burdens are but a find that some individual or corporation feather's weight. Under our endeavor is making a great deal of money. Their to tax everything, the working farmer first idea is, to tax the builder of the property, or the business of the corporation, on the principle that these should contribute to the state; while they encourage idleness, by allowing the speculator in vacant city lots or valuable land, or railway, or other franchises which involve monopoly, to go almost scot free. They assess land built upon at a much higher valuation than pre-cisely similar land not built upon, thereby actually fining the man who builds a beautiful home and who is entitled to a full return on the labor and

Laws Should Not Keep Land Vacant

During a recent discussion of the capital he has expended.-Brooklyp

A measure enabling owners of land, situated within the limits of any borqugh of this commonwealth and used exclusively for farming purposes, to have such land detached from said boroughs, is pending in the legislature at Harrisburg. Its enactment into law would check the growth and improvement of scores of towns in the state and establish a precedent for similar legislation affecting cities.

The bill ought to be killed at once.

It has no merit and if passed would in-volve a flagrant injustice to every bor-ough in which "lands used exclusively for farming purposes" may be held. For the object of the proposed act is obviously to permit the owners of such in Berne. By the way, it is only in lands to escape taxation for borough purposes. They now pay their share into the borough treasury, but under this measure they would rid themselves of that burden while retaining all the advantages which public improvements and the growth of population contribute to the ownership of land.

It will not be pretended by the advocates of the bill that the lands which it is designed to affect will not share equally with all other lands in the benefit of public improvements and the advance of population. Then why should they not contribute equally to the pub-

The measure ought to be entitled "An act for the purpose of enabling certain land owners to escape their fair share of taxation and to retard the growth of certain boroughs by enabling certain landlords to withhold their lands from their best use pending a rise in value." For that is exactly its purpose and no other effect could be expected. -Johnstown Democrat.

Illinois Urged to Adopt Single Tax

About a year ago a majority of the citizens of Hyattsville, Md., voted to remove all taxes from buildings and personal property and to raise the necessary municipal revenue from ground rent alone. A few of the large land owners immediately carried the affair into court, and upon suffering an adverse decision appealed to the supreme court of the state, which has just declared the new law unconstitutional Single taxers and others bent upon tax reform may learn from this experience that the shortest road to a fair trial of new tax systems is the one leading to a revision of state constitutions. The people have long since outgrown these ancient documents, and to continue in their observance is simply to say that Americans are incapable of self-govern-ment. There is pending in the New York legislature a bill which would grant to each township and municipality the right to choose and apply its own system of taxation. This measure of local option, which should have the general support of farmers and other special victims of the present plunder-ing scheme, will undoubtedly prove the first step toward more equitable assess-"But it hadn't ought to be," he will select a more unjust system than the add, "men ought to give honest and imone now in vogue, and there is reasonsments. No community could possible partial returns of all their property." ble certainty that a vast improvement upon it will result from giving the page. practice should our laws be adapted to ple a chance to manage their local af-the men we now have or to the men we fairs. Illinois lawmakers should take upon it will result from giving note of New York's proposed home rule bill and so amend the constitution that local option in taxation may be given to

"Economy is Wealth."

Dimon Banks (to profligate son)-Your extravagance is unpardonable. Center Banks-Well, sir, I he thought up a scheme by which I

pave \$1,600. Dimon-Really! What is 16? Center-You give me a hundred